

The Colliers are the proud parents of two wonderful children, Daniel, age 14, and Katie, age 12. The Colliers represent citizenship at its best, and I am pleased to recognize these fine Americans in the pages of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IN HONOR OF "BLACK WOMEN'S DAY" RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CHARITABLE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL WOMEN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to local African-American women for their distinguished public service and selfless commitment to their communities. October 20, 1996, will mark the 29th year celebrating Black Women's Day, and the accomplishments of women who continue to provide such vital charitable work for people from all walks of life.

This day recognizes the enormous difference that compassionate individuals can make in the lives of so many in our society who are less fortunate. I commend the efforts of these women and the profound impact that their work has had on the community for so many years. As caring members of the community, these women have and continue to serve as positive role models for individuals and families who have lost hope due to unfortunate circumstances in their lives.

As we approach a new millennium, the need for individuals who contribute to the empowerment and improvement of our communities will be of utmost importance. Our communities today are filled with families in need of emergency assistance. The women being honored on Black Women's Day, recognize the urgency in providing such assistance. Their work transcends racial barriers and focuses more importantly on the human spirit. For this, they have earned the fond admiration of their communities and of mine as well.

The 29th annual Black Women's Day Awards Banquet will honor Catherine Burno, Reba Jenkins, Oclean Pitchford, Frances Richardson, Frances Thompson, Ruth Henderson, Eola Jett, Deborah Reid-Davis, Carolyn Surles, and Estelle Williams for their distinguished works of charity. Also being honored at this event for their contributions are Dr. Phillip M. Bonaparte, Esteemed Honoree, and Lyle Young, Man of the Year.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these remarkable women for all that they have done for our communities. I am proud to have them living and performing such outstanding works of charity within my congressional district. I greatly appreciate the efforts of all those being honored at the banquet and encourage them to continue their work for many more years.

HONORING ZEIGLER-ROYALTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 188

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Zeigler-Royalton Community Unit School District No. 188, Zeigler, IL, located in my congressional district, for having been ranked by the Illinois Tax Foundation as being among the top school districts in the State of Illinois.

The Illinois Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan organization, analyzed the standardized test performance of each Illinois school district for the years 1993-1995. Each district was compared with similar Illinois districts, based on the percentage of low-income students in all districts. Despite the fact that this school district has a very high enrollment of low-income students, its academic performance far surpassed larger school districts with a high enrollment of upper income students.

This is a tribute to the outstanding leadership of the school officials and the dedication and deep commitment of the teachers to providing their students with the best education possible. I commend them for their invaluable contribution to ensuring our children become productive members of society and extend my congratulations to all of them for their remarkable achievement.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER MANOOGIAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, September 28, 1996*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, as the House adjourns today, I want to be certain that we take the fullest note of one of this year's most regrettable events, the death of Alexander Manoogian.

Mr. Manoogian was a towering figure in the Armenian-American community and beyond. He built the Masco Corporation into a major business entity in this nation. He used his wealth with immense generosity for the benefit of his immediate community and the nation at large.

We are thankful that he was given a long and full life. That will only make it more difficult to fill the vacuum which his death leaves for us all.

In further remembrance of Alexander Manoogian, I now insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article written after his death by Dennis Papazian, a distinguished scholar as well as a leader in the Armenian-American community.

A BEFITTING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAN

(By Dennis R. Papazian, Ph.D.)

The Alex Manoogian era of Armenian history, spanning 95 years, has come to a close. His earthly remains were laid to rest with great dignity and solemn ceremony at the majestic, cathedral-like St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, which he helped to design and build, on Thursday, July 18, 1996.

The dan gark (wake) and funeral, both held in the church, were presided over by His Ho-

liness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians from Armenia and carried out with the ministrations of several diocesan Primates, a host of bishops and archbishops, and a score of other clergymen and deacons representing the Armenian Church in America, Armenia, and in the diaspora. Also represented at the funeral were clergy of the Armenian Protestant churches, the Armenian uniate Catholic Church, the Armenian Prelacy, as well as many sister American churches.

A delegation of government officials from Armenia, led by former vice-president of the Republic and current President of the Constitutional Court, Mr. Gagik Haroutunian, had flown in from Armenia to show their deep respect and abiding affection for the Honorary Citizen of Armenia and the "National Hero of the Armenian People."

Leaders of the Armenian community and virtually every Armenian organization and political party in the diaspora were represented at the funeral, including members of the Diocesan Council, the Board of Directors of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, and a host of others. Leaders of the American community, from business, government, and philanthropy, were visibly in attendance.

Distinguished American political figures in attendance included the governor of Michigan, the Honorable John Engler; the former governor of Michigan and current American Ambassador to Canada, the Honorable James Blanchard; various members of the state House and Senate; and representatives of Senators Carl Levin and Spencer Abraham as well as of the Michigan US Congressional delegation, including the Hon. Sander Levin. The dan gark was also attended by the Honorable Dennis Archer, mayor of Detroit, as well as by other civic dignitaries.

The cavernous church was filled to overflowing on the occasion of both the dan gark and the funeral with mourners who had come from literally all over the world to pay their last tribute to a great Armenian-American. Distinguished personages arrived from as far as Armenia and Australia and from Canada to Latin America, to pay homage to perhaps the greatest Armenian philanthropist and leader of the 20th century. Mr. Manoogian's rich and active life spanned 95 years, from the turn of the century to the present, from the genocide of 1915 to the inauguration of the second free and independent Armenian Republic.

The homily at the *dan gark* was delivered by His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, from New York, who was introduced by the pastor of St. John's Church of South field, MI, the Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretzian, who also expressed his love, respect, and devotion for Mr. Manoogian. Archbishop Shane Ajemian from Jerusalem read the Epistle and Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, chanted the Gospel. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of Canada, recited the "*Christos vorti*," Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian of New York read a message of condolence from His Holiness Aram, I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, in Lebanon.

The formal eulogy at the funeral, filled with insight and pathos worthy of the solemn occasion, was delivered by His Holiness the Catholicos who drew attention to Mr. Manoogian's love for his own people, for the world community, for the Armenian Church,